



General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS)

PEO Enterprise Information Systems

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is GFEBS?

The General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) is a web-enabled system that will allow the U.S. Army to share financial data across the Service. The technology behind GFEBS is SAP, a commercial off the shelf (COTS), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) financial management system. The GFEBS implementation involves standardizing financial

management and accounting functions and real property inventory and management across the Army. As a result, Army financial and real property professionals will have access to timely, reliable, and accurate information. Additionally this will improve cost management and control, and allow more time to perform financial analysis, and facilitate a more accurate understanding of the value, location and characteristics of all property.

The move to GFEBS is in response to these mandates and is in concert with the DoD's BMMP and the Army's Campaign Plan (ACP)

GFEBS will provide a comprehensive system for many of the Army's financial and accounting functions to include:

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Revenue and Accounts Receivable
- Funds Control and Budgetary Accounting
- Cost Management
- Financial Reporting
- Real Property Inventory and Management

How many end-users will be on GFEBS at full deployment?

At full deployment, GFEBS will be used by more than 79,000 end-users at nearly 200 Army financial centers. GFEBS ultimately will be one of the world's largest enterprise financial systems.

Is transition to GFEBS system mandatory?

Transition to this new system is mandatory. The Army is moving rapidly to transform its business and financial management functions in response to Congressional mandates—the 1990 Chief Financial Officers Act, which orders federal agencies to centralize their finance systems to better account for their spending and the 1996 FFMIA, which requires Federal financial management systems to provide accurate, reliable, and timely financial management information to the governments managers. The move to GFEBS is in response to these mandates and is in concert with the DoD's BMMP

and the Army's Campaign Plan (ACP). GFEBS is an integral part of the Army's business transformation of the ACP.

How many financial systems are being evaluated for an interface to GFEBS or as potential to be subsumed by GFEBS?

There are 210 systems under evaluation. To review a listing of the systems that functionality may be subsumed by GFEBS; you may view the System Evolution Description, posted to the following on the GFEBS website at <http://www.gfebs.army.mil/architecture>.

What will be different after GFEBS is fully fielded? What is the benefit of GFEBS?

Currently the Army does not have integration across its financial systems or among other domains; GFEBS will integrate over 80% of the financial capabilities of the Army. This integration allows for a single data entry into the system - significantly decreasing the number of manual reconciliations currently being performed throughout the Army. Integration also improves planning, programming, budgeting and execution through the use of integrated output data from financial and non-financial sources.

GFEBS will feed vital, up-to-the-minute information to senior civilian and Army leadership. GFEBS will put in place and maintain financial and asset management systems that will not only give Congressional overseers the level of financial accountability they need from the Department, but also provide top-tier Army and DoD leadership with timely, accurate data that will enable them to make sound business decisions in support of America's Warfighters. Additionally, there will be significant savings in personnel-related matters as a result of the implementation of GFEBS. Roles will be re-distributed and realigned in order to appropriately work within the new system.

What is the time frame for training? How long will training be per area of responsibility (roles)?

In general, user training for GFEBS begins approximately three months prior

to the release deployment of the system at an installation. Factors that can increase or decrease the training period include: the number of users to be trained, the timing of the go-live date (e.g., near year-end close, near holiday periods, etc.), and training facility availability. In addition, user training will continue after system deployment. GFEBS support staff will stay on-site after deployment to provide support, including refresher user training. The length of this support period and size of the support team depend on the size of the installation. Many of the GFEBS training courses are specific to user roles. Therefore, the length of training per user will vary depending on the number and complexity of roles assigned to the user.

Will GFEBS reports show commitments, obligations and disbursements?

Yes, the GFEBS Funds Status Reports will display commitments, obligations, and disbursements. The reports will also display budget (allotment and annual funding plan), expenses, and available budget to get a complete status of budget authority.

What will happen to Army legacy data in the legacy system being replaced by GFEBS?

The goal is to leave as much data as possible in the legacy system in order to preserve the integrity and audit-ability of GFEBS. GFEBS will only cleanse and convert data that is deemed necessary to move to GFEBS.

Which appropriations will be covered by GFEBS?

GFEBS will cover the following appropriations: 1) Operations and Maintenance, 2) Procurement Operations, and 3) Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E). GFEBS will not cover working capital as it is included in the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP).

What is the schedule of fieldings? When and how will we receive notification about deployment and training for our organization?

In Release 1.2, GFEBS will implement full General Fund functionality (replacing

STANFINS) to Fort Jackson IMCOM and supporting directorates/activities at HQDA, IMCOM HQ, IMCOM SE Region, Ft. Jackson, and DFAS. In Release 1.3, GFEBS will implement full General Fund functionality (replacing STANFINS) Army-wide, including the Guard and Reserves. In Release 1.4, GFEBS will be fielded to all SOMARDS sites. GFEBS will work with all impacted organizations in preparation for implementation. Preparation efforts will parallel the deployment approach, starting at the Command level and cascading through the Army to installations, organizations and directorates to be impacted by GFEBS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED FUNCTIONAL QUESTIONS

How many financial systems are being evaluated for an interface to GFEBS or as potential to be subsumed by GFEBS?

Currently there are 90 systems that will be subsumed by the GFEBS solution. To view a listing of the systems whose functionality may be subsumed by GFEBS, you may view the System Evolution Description, posted on the GFEBS website at <http://www.gfebs.army.mil/architecture>.

What will happen to Army legacy data in the system being replaced by GFEBS?

The goal is to leave as much data as possible in the legacy system in order to preserve the integrity and audit-ability of GFEBS. GFEBS will only cleanse and convert data that is deemed necessary to move to GFEBS.

How long will it take for the legacy system legacy systems to go away completely?

The legacy systems will take a number of years before they will go away completely. The systems are Army owned and all of their systems will be subsumed by GFEBS. Programs operated by Army and owned other programs (i.e. Department of Defense) will be treated differently.

Has the cost of maintaining the entire legacy interfaces been addressed?

Yes, we're keeping legacy systems longer than expected. When the transaction

Based on the Spending Chain workshops, we will need to interface with each instance of SPS since the increment 3 of SPS has been halted

workload is small enough to assure ourselves and auditors that we can cleanse it properly, we will be fully converted. Bringing it all over at once is not a good idea.

Is IMA On-Line (IOL) going away with the inception of GFEBS? If so, when?

The functionality of IMA On-Line (IOL) will be included in GFEBS. As GFEBS is deployed, the site would no longer use IOL. The exact deployment schedule is still being developed, but once all IMA activities are under GFEBS, IOL will be shut down.

How does GFEBS affect Funds Control (part of the Logistics Modernization Program)?

As the General Fund system of record, GFEBS will maintain all Funds Control. Systems such as the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) will interface with GFEBS to obtain a fund check whenever the funds used are General Funds.

Will GFEBS interface with each instance of SPS or with some sort of consolidated SPS database?

At this point, the plan is to interface to each instance of SPS. Based on the Spending Chain workshops, we will need to interface with each instance of SPS since the increment 3 of SPS has been halted. The number of interfaces is still being worked out by the Spending Chain functional team at this time. GFEBS will not coordinate or require a consolidated SPS database.

How will DIMHRS interface with GFEBS?

GFEBS will be receiving inbound interfaces from DIMHRS in Release 1.3 to post Military Pay at the MILPAY Appropriation level. These interfaces will include SFIS elements to ensure compliance in GFEBS.

How will IFS be affected by the GFEBS system? Will I have two systems to deal with or just the one GFEBS?

GFEBS has the functionality to replace the Integrated Facility System (IFS). Once GFEBS deploys to your installation, there should not be any dual entry required. The IFS, or some sort of data warehouse, should still be available for historical research for any data that is not converted into GFEBS.

Will GFEBS subsume the WAWF utilized by DFAS for receipts and payments?

GFEBS will interface with, not subsume Wide Area Workflow (WAWF). Goods receipts will be performed in GFEBS and interfaced to WAWF. Interfaces have also been identified for incoming invoices from WAWF to GFEBS.

When will GFEBS interface with DTS?

Interface development between the Defense Travel System (DTS) and GFEBS is part of the R1.2 deployment.

Will Directorate of Logistics use GFEBS for equipment or work management?

Information will be interfaced to GFEBS from external systems to capture cost (maintenance for real property and installed equipment, and capitol expense for real property and assets). The intent is not to use GFEBS as the work management system for Non-General fund execution.

How will problems in GFEBS be handled, for example rejects in the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP)?

Transactions processed through the interface will be translated into an intermediate document (IDOC) to load the data into GFEBS (SAP). If there is an error, the IDOC is suspended and the appropriate person is notified to work the problem and reprocess the IDOC if necessary.

GFEBS is a web-based solution which can be accessed through an internet browser

Will we be able perform cost comparisons like we can in SOMARDS?

GFEBS plans to provide variance analysis on individual cost centers and projects based on budget (spend) and cost plan. In order to provide you with more details, please let us know what type of cost comparisons you perform today that you would need to have done in GFEBS by emailing gfebs.info@us.army.mil

Will we be able to create ad hoc reports in GFEBS?

Yes, ad hoc reports can be created in GFEBS. The ad hoc report is useful because it provides a tool with sophisticated sorting capability. Ad hoc reports will be able to run real-time in GFEBS; however, ad hoc queries will be stored in the data warehouse which is updated nightly.

What is the backup process? What would determine when users are transferred to the backup? Is the backup a real time redundant system or just data storage?

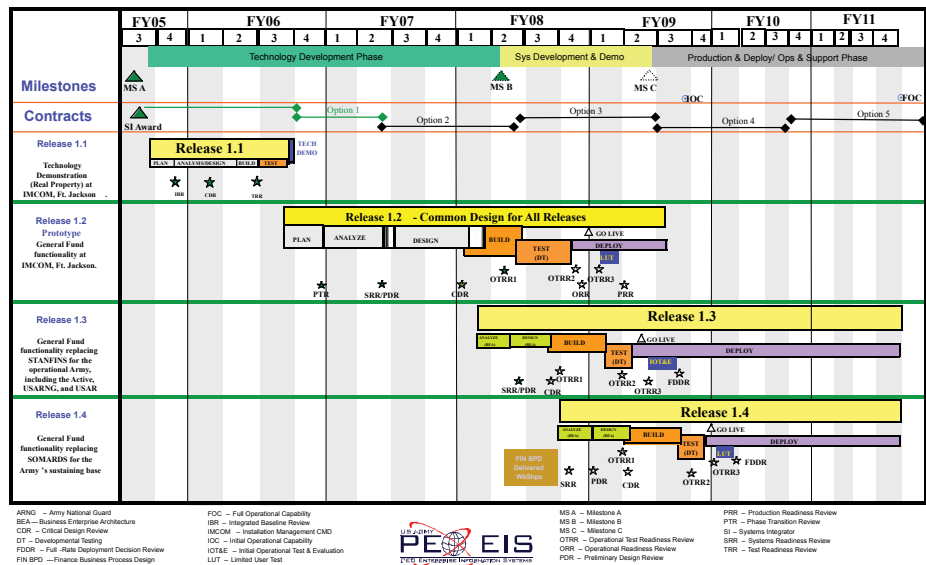
The design for the US Army GFEBS System includes Disaster Recovery Fail-over capabilities, using the Secondary Data Center site, with a near real-time database standby to the primary site as part of Release 1.2. In the event of a disaster or catastrophic event, the GFEBS system would be up and operational within 6 hours, having little to no impact to the end user community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

What is the GFEBS backup process?

The GFEBS production infrastructure is located at the Redstone Arsenal Data Center. This data center has redundant power sources, including backup generators and full Uninterruptible Power Supply

Project Schedule



(UPS), ensuring high availability for financial operations. During normal operations, GFEBS data will be backed up to tape storage devices and stored off-site. Additionally, this data will be regularly transmitted to a "warm" Disaster Recovery (DR) site. In the event of a disaster, GFEBS will be operational at this DR site within six hours.

A single system like GFEBS will experience extreme demand during year-end processing. Will load testing be performed?

The project has completed the performance test approach for Release 1.2 which delineates the approach for performance and load testing of the GFEBS infrastructure prior to the October 2008 "Go-live" date. These test activities will help establish system performance benchmarks, thresholds, and data points applicable for ongoing capacity planning activities.

Does GFEBS have separate development, quality assurance, test, and production instances?

GFEBS will follow a three-tier system architecture consisting of a development (DEV), quality assurance (QA), and production (PRD) environment. GFEBS

components for these environments will be hosted in two data centers. The primary data center will host the entire GFEBS PRD infrastructure and environment while the secondary data center will host both the DEV and QA environments.

Where will GFEBS data be stored?

Disk storage will be provided by the internal disk drives on each server until storage requirements are such that a Storage Area Network (SAN) is needed at both the primary and secondary data centers.

What are the user requirements for accessing GFEBS?

GFEBS is a web-based solution which can be accessed through an internet browser. Using Internet Explorer 6.0 or later version is recommended. To access GFEBS, all users must have a National Agency Check (NAC) or equivalent security clearance on file, a Common Access Card (CAC) to use a CAC-enabled workstation, and be a registered AKO user. RM

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About the Author

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